AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for pre-trusting applications for a firewall application, the method comprising:

    reading an order for an information handling system;

    installing a software application onto the information handling system <u>during a factory install process</u>;

    adding an identifier for the software application to a list of trusted applications <u>during the factory install process, the identifier being added to the list of trusted applications to represent an application which is not subject to malicious modification based upon an assumption that applications installed during the factory install process are safe</u>;

    installing the firewall application onto the information handling system; and

    accessing the list of trusted applications to automatically identify to the firewall application that the software application is a trusted application.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated within a manufacturing facility.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

generating a check sum for the software application; and,

adding the check sum to the list of trusted applications.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further wherein:

the check sum corresponds to an MD5 signature.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated by the firewall application based upon a record

of software that is installed on the information handling system in a

manufacturing facility.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

generating a check sum for the software application; and,

adding the check sum to the list of trusted applications.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further wherein:

the check sum corresponds to an MD5 signature.

8.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for pre-trusting applications for a firewall

application, the method comprising:

means for reading an order for an information handling system;

means for installing a software application onto the information handling system during a

factory install process;

means for adding an identifier for the software application to a list of trusted applications

during the factory install process, the identifier being added to the list of trusted

applications to represent an application which is not subject to malicious

modification based upon an assumption that applications installed during the

factory install process are safe;

means for installing the firewall application onto the information handling system; and

means for accessing the list of trusted applications to automatically identify to the

firewall application that the software application is a trusted application.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated within a manufacturing facility.

10.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

means for generating a check sum for the software application; and,

means for adding the check sum to the list of trusted applications.

11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further wherein:

the check sum corresponds to an MD5 signature.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated by the firewall application based upon a record
        of software that is installed on the information handling system in a
        manufacturing facility.

13.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

means for generating a check sum for the software application; and,

means for adding the check sum to the list of trusted applications.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further wherein:

the check sum corresponds to an MD5 signature.

15.   (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

a processor;

memory coupled to the processor;

a firewall application stored on the memory;

an approved application file stored on the memory, the approved application file
        including a list of trusted applications, the firewall application accessing the list of
        trusted applications to automatically identify a software application as a trusted
        software application, an identifier of the software application being added to the
        list of trusted applications to represent an application which is not subject to
        malicious modification based upon an assumption that applications installed
        during a factory install process are safe.

16.   (Original) The information handling system of claim 15 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated within a manufacturing facility.

17. (Original) The information handling system of claim 15 wherein:

the list of trusted applications is generated by the firewall application based upon a record of software that is installed on the information handling system in a manufacturing facility.